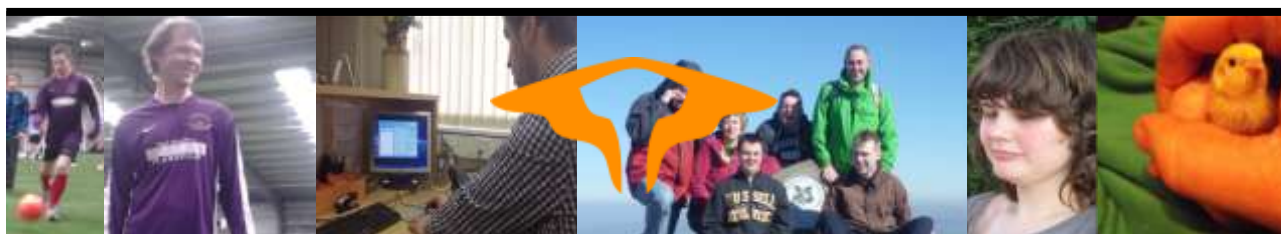


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A message from Dai Sibbons, our principal

The college has had a very busy, productive spring term. I am delighted to share **some of the highlights with you in this term's edition of the Coleg Chronicles**. During this term we have had new additions to the college. Katie has opened our very own hedgehog hotels, for sick and injured hedgehogs. Debbie on the farm has acquired two ponies from Lluest Pony Trust, on a temporary loan, Bjarte and his team have had a very busy, but successful lambing season - very well done to you all.

Anette is now managing Towy Valley Care, which is open and running at Bran Yard. Their office is located in Dewi Sant, and you can contact her at tvc@colegelidyr.com. Anette is looking forward to offering respite care services from this summer holiday, should some parents wish to use it.

We hope you have all had a fantastic relaxing holiday and look forward to the summer term.

Dai Sibbons



What's been happening in the houses?

We asked some of the Houses to update us with what they've been up to this term. Here's the different articles which they sent to us...



Nantgwyn

Nantgwyn House has been taking part in a lot of activities this term.

The sun has started to come out recently, and that **has meant there's been a lot of chance for people to get out and about. We've been using our bikes a lot** this term to get about on the weekends, especially Jared and Andrew.

Andrew and Jake have been on several outings to Carmarthen, accessing public transport to do this. Pictured below is Andrew visiting a shop for acoustic guitars in Carmarthen when he was on a trip out. A couple of weeks before the end of term Jake and Andrew also rode the train with a volunteer to Swansea for a day out.

We also went out bowling (pictured below) and to visit Llansteffan Castle (top left), which were enjoyed by all.

In the House, we've been practising our skills every day. There pictures here are of Natasha cooking a chocolate cake for supper with Leila, and Stacey doing her laundry.

Nantgwyn would also like to say good luck for the future to Ben Harray, who left the House this term to move on to a different placement.





Ty St Barbe

Ty St Barbe had a grand adventure one weekend, when Ruaridh and Ben were visiting home for the day. Sam, Peter, Sandra, George, Neil and Ceri climbed all the way to the top of Pen Y Fan in the Brecon Beacons this term which was quite an amazing achievement! We took rucksacks, sturdy boots, warm coats lots of water to drink and sandwiches and snacks to keep us going.

We left Coleg at about 10.15am full of pep. We took the easier of the 2 routes, but neither route was particularly easy! It took about 3 and a half hours to get up and back, which is very good time! It was a lovely sunny day so there were lots of people walking/running and even cycling up. There were lots of families and lots of dogs going for walks with their owners too. At the summit it was extremely windy so we were glad we took our coats!

We were all very proud of ourselves when we eventually got back down, so thought we all deserved a much needed burger and cup of tea from the burger van in the lay-by on the Beacons. We had planned to get back to watch the England v Wales rugby match but missed the first half so decided to drive to Brecon and treat ourselves to an ice cream instead!

We got back to Coleg at about 5.00pm all very tired and happy having had a thoroughly enjoyable day.



"Maybe we'll even try the difficult route up next time "





Gwernpwll

The Farm house said goodbye to two of their trainees during this term. Joe Hobbs has moved on to supported residential living with the local Towy Valley Care, while Tor Gregory will be living with our partner Victoria House in Llangadog. They wrote this to say goodbye:



"Once a person comes in to your life, you can never expect how much you can learn from that person and vice-versa. Although we are here to support and teach life experiences, it is only at the end that we see it is also those individuals that teach us how wonderful life is and the memories they bring.

This is why we want to thank you, Joe Hobbs and Tor Gregory for all the experiences and memories and we hope bright and prosperous life ahead of you, we hope that what we taught you, you will take onto **the next stage of your life."**



They would also like to say thank you to Alena Kozak (pictured to the left with David) and Albert Wieland, departing volunteers from the House. Alena had been a staple in the household for a year and a half, and will be sorely missed. Good luck in the future Alena and Albert, we wish you all the best in your life.

Finally, the house would like to extend their congratulations to their House Manager Kelly Woodall on the birth of her baby girl Zara May. Assistant House Manager Rosina will be taking care of the house while Kelly is on maternity leave. We wish Zara May a healthy and happy start, and hope you get a chance to visit us soon!

Gardevias

Gardevias House is also saying goodbye to a member of their house. Katie has been in Coleg Elidyr for 7 years now, living in Ty Barnabas, Gwernpwll and Gardevias. Katie has met lots of new friends and had many exciting experiences, and we have seen her progress in **independence and skill in the House and the many work areas she's been a valued part of. During her time at Coleg Katie's speech has become much clearer,**

and she's been able to express herself in lots of new ways, including many words and short sentences. She will also be especially missed in her now regular sessions; cooking and estate.

Katie has enjoyed her time in college and has brought joy to us here too with her enthusiastic interaction with us all. Gardevias staff will miss her dearly, and we all wish her all the best in the future.





Ty Iori

A common sight around Coleg Elidyr has been learners from Ty Iori out and about with cameras.

One learner has been putting together an exhibition of 18 photographs with staff in his house of sights around Coleg Elidyr (including the photographs of flowers, right). He is also learning how to use the computer to adjust the photographs. Here is what he wrote about the project:

The world through my EYES

I like taking photos to make pretty pictures. I like taking photographs of nature, especially the weather. My favourite weather is sunshine.

I also like taking photos of people. I like to have photos of my friends.

I would like other people to see my photos. I am going to print my photos out for other people to see.



whole family and items for sale which our learners and trainees have been producing. **There'll also be a chance to visit different areas of the site and meet the Education and Care staff too.**

If you're looking for somewhere to stay, don't forget our on-site Bed and Breakfast Ty Collen, which gives our learners and trainees a chance to learn Hospitality skills. Contact patriciaplume@colegelidyr.com or visit our website (www.colegelidyr.com) for more information on how to book a room.



Retail Sessions



Emma Blofield, the tutor of Retail sessions, put together some photographs with her groups to show us all what they have been getting up to in the shop.

This term we have been focusing on improving and developing our customer service skills with everybody coming into the shop. We asked for feedback on how we were doing. We have had great response from customers and will continue with this.



We have large deliveries coming into the shop and all learners and trainees have been busy checking invoices, pricing up, shelf filling, recycling and lots more.



Second and third year learners have been going into the local community to carry out surveys on shops. They were looking at Health and Safety, and accessibility and charting the results. This was a great exercise and learners enjoyed the responsibility.



We have also been working on improving our money skills with lots of games and activities, using the products. Of course we get to use these skills every day when people come into our shop to get all they need for the week.



The shop is a big success with all of our Learners and Trainees, thank you Emma and your team. All the food eaten in the Houses, and lots of goods we sell from the Garden and Farm go through the Shop, so they are always busy.



Coleg's Chronicles: 40th Anniversary



The Farm Project:

Where the Estate Group join the Farm Group The renovation of the pigsty continues, from its humble beginnings to the palace it is now! The pig sty in the farm had become overrun by **vegetation, and we've been working hard to re-claim it as a usable space once again.** We owe a lot of thanks to the hard work of the following students, Nathanael, Khyle, Jared, David, Stephen and Neil. Our new Farm Tutor Debbie Griffiths has taken the reigns of the project now, but it was all made possible by the wonderful project management skills of Shane Williams the Estate Tutor. While most of the clearing was carried out last term, we have now started working on putting together the new roof (including taking full stock of the re-claimed tiles we found).

Marge the sow is keen to move in to her newly renovated home with her piglets just after the holidays, when everything is finished.



Ponies on the Farm Plans are now underway to bring a pair of wonderful ponies onto the farm. Buzz (pictured) and Gizmo will be loaned to us by the Lluest Pony Trust, where we have been volunteering as part of our Work Experience programme. The ponies will be looked after by the Farm groups. Look for updates in our next newsletter or online!





The Friday Football Team

Friday afternoon is personal development time, which gives the learners a chance to choose a skill or hobby to develop. Football is one of the choices offered, and this term the Football team (led by James White and Josh Fretwell) took the group out for a whole day trip. Josh wrote this piece for us:

On the 5th of March, Coleg Elidyr entered a football team into a competition in Llanelli against a variety of teams across Carmarthenshire. It was a 5 aside tournament and we had a squad of nine. We certainly looked the part as we arrived in a kit that Llandeilo FC allowed us to use.

Everyone put in a top performance. Greg and Neil scored 3 goals between them as they made some great runs through the opposite defense. Our defensive duo of Andrew and Jake



made some crucial tackles, whilst Laurence made his competitive debut in goal, pulling off some valuable saves. Ashley and Martyn made important interceptions in midfield, whilst Oliver narrowly missed with a belter of a shot. George had us all on our feet as he surged towards goal as his shot deflected wide.

We had an absolutely fantastic time and I am extremely proud of the effort and conduct displayed by our learners. We are certainly looking to build upon this and have teamed up with a club in Carmarthen called Elfyd United. They play in the



Welsh disability football setup every month against teams from across South Wales. So far we have attended two tournaments and several of our learners are now registered players. We are hoping that we can get more of our learners involved, experiencing the thrills of playing in a great team sport.



The Garden's newest visitors; the hedgehog hospital



There is a new hedgehog hotel in the garden. The hedgehog hotel cares for injured hedgehogs, most of whom are looking to be returned to the wild once they recover. The pictured hedgehog, Hans, is our handling hedgehog, as he will be returned to a farm location where there are limited people.

Burns pet food supplied the hedgehog hotels, "5 star" accommodation for our new residents.

LBS builders merchants gave us £100 towards medical bills for the hedgehogs, which is helping Hans with his snuffly nose.

Western Power donated £300 towards food for the hedgehogs, which has been split between wet and dry. The hedgehogs eat ½ a tin of wet dog or cat food every day, which is supplemented with a couple of handfuls of a dry food mix. That is, except for the hedgehogs who need to lose some weight, who are on a strict diet of dry food!

BTG Protherics donated £200 towards our cause, which has been spent on equipment and food for baby hedgehogs (hoglets!).

Pembrokeshire "hogspital" gave us our first four residents: Bob, Pansy, Kilroy and Spike. We have also received two hedgehog from Howey Hedgehog Rescue, Angelica and Nerene, so they could make space for other residents themselves. Hans came from the garden of Debbie Griffiths, our Farm tutor!

Having the hedgehogs with us in the garden creates an opportunity for the learners and trainees to take care of wildlife and gives us a greater awareness of the natural ecosystem around us. Besides being very cute, and iconic British creatures, hedgehogs are a natural pest control. There was previously no provision for hedgehog care in Carmarthen and Ceredigion counties, but now working with Carmarthen Bat and Hedgehog rescue, we are the first providers of rehabilitation in the area.

We are registered with the Hedgehog Preservation Society and follow their guidelines for Hedgehog care.





Work Experience at Coleg Elidyr

Work Experience, both Internal and External, is a big focus in Coleg Elidyr. In the summer term we'll be running External Work Experience at the RSPCA, at Llandovery Hospital Gardens, at Lluest Woodlands, at Myddfai trading company, at Aberglasney Gardens, at the Co-op, at three local cafés and at a local pub.

Internal Work Experience takes place with our gardener, shop Manager and Farm Manager, but this term also extended to the top office. Learners and Trainees are now present to welcome visitors to Coleg Elidyr, redirect phone calls and complete Office jobs which are e-mailed to them by everybody on site.

Alice James, our Work Experience coordinator and Job Coach, has written us some updates for External Work Experience, while the Internal Work Experience workers in the Office sent us through photographs of themselves as one of their duties.

The Owls Nest Diner - Jim Nowell

Jim goes to the Owls Nest Diner in Llandovery for Work Experience 2 days a week. This is an independent placement and the staff at the café agree that Jim is a great asset to the team. Jim gained his level 2 food hygiene certificate last year and since then has been developing his chef skills in the kitchen. Jim cooks all-day breakfasts and **other meals as well as preparing salads, paninis and desserts.** Jim's



confidence within the café has grown immensely over the past year and he is now able to take customer orders and deal with basic bills. Jim is very grateful for his experience in the café and would like to continue in the hospitality trade in the future. He hopes to be able to get a placement in one of the larger hotels in the area so that he can experience different aspects of the tourist trade.



The Corner Shop Café - Peter Rhys Jenkins and Boom Park

Peter has been taking part in Work Experience at The Corner Shop Café in Llandovery since January.

He goes every Tuesday morning with Boom, a guest volunteer from Ty Rhieni house. Peter works in the kitchen peeling and chopping vegetables as well as helping to lay and clear tables and ensuring that the café is kept clean and tidy. He particularly enjoys helping to make cakes and recently made a beautiful chocolate cake. It is a bustling little café with lots of customers to keep Peter on his toes. Peter enjoys chatting to people and he loves to make them laugh. Peter has learnt a lot during his time at the café and is now able to work in the kitchen with increased independence. He knows the layout of the café and gets on well with the other staff.



Greg, Jake, Khyle, Stephen and Peter MacDonald continue with the hard work at Aberglasney Gardens. The weather has been pretty atrocious since January so there have been a few days when we have had to give in to the rain and storm force winds and stay in the dry but we have managed to get out into the garden a few times.

There is always gravel to rake and grass edges to keep smart so we have not been short of jobs. Spring is definitely on its way and no more evident than at Aberglasney where the snowdrops and daffodils are in full bloom.

Greg has taken on the role of group supervisor which he takes very seriously. In the picture he is showing Khyle the best technique for ensuring that the grass has a consistently straight edge.

We are looking forward to better weather and dry days at the garden when we can help with harvesting flowers and vegetables and ensuring that the garden is looking its best for the many tourists that will visit it this summer.



Office Internal Work Experience

One of the most exciting new opportunities this term was for learners and trainees to take part in Internal Work Experience in the office, acting as receptionists. They take part in many duties, such as preparing laminated and cutting resources for different lessons, reading posters and notices for the site, answering the phone and redirecting calls, and receiving e-mails. One of their most important duties is to welcome people to Coleg Elidyr at reception, both friends and guests, and help them to find what they need. Claire from Victoria House, who used to live with us in Coleg Elidyr, has also been



accessing this work experience. She sent through a picture of herself working (upper right), as did Ada, Laurence, Andrew and Ruaridh.





New life in Coleg Elidyr

If you've been following us on twitter (@ColegElidyr, www.twitter.com/ColegElidyr) or on our facebook (Coleg Elidyr Camphill Communities, www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill), you might have seen some of these photographs as they happened.

It's been a beautiful start to spring, with plenty of sunshine and blossom. We've also had a lot of new life in our farm and garden, including quails (for the new quail run in the garden), ducklings (for the new duck pond on the farm), chicks, piglets and lambs.



Well done to the land groups for their success. We'll have our work cut out for us in the summer term, keeping all of these new residents happy and healthy as they grow!



About our newsletter

Our Newsletter is made from submissions submitted by everybody at Coleg Elidyr throughout **the term and we'd like to thank everybody who contributed to our Newsletter this term. We'd** also like to say thank you to Richard Tither and Matthew Jefferson for editing the articles.



Updates can often be found on our Facebook account or website before being collected **for the newsletter. Find us on Facebook as "Coleg Elidyr Camphill Communities", or** directly at www.facebook.com/ColegElidyrCamphill
You can also find us online at www.colegelidyr.ac.uk